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*10/ Reg for Reg 31.07*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
JASON A. POIRIER et al.

Serial No. 09/392,270

Filed: September 9, 1999

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD  
OF MANUFACTURING A  
VEHICLE FRAME ASSEMBLY

)  
) Group Art Unit 3726  
)  
) Examiner Trinh Nguyen  
)  
) Attorney Docket 1-21036  
)  
)

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

RESPONSE

Honorable Sir:

In response to the Official Letter, Paper No. 9, dated September 13, 2000, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art as set forth in the specification. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 defines the invention as a method for manufacturing a vehicle frame component that includes the steps of providing a workpiece, performing a scanning heat treatment process on the workpiece in a continuous and longitudinal manner from one end to the other, and deforming the workpiece to form a vehicle frame component.